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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/001,663	10/23/2001	Saverio Paonessa	62,827-015	2081

26127 7590 05/11/2004

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EXAMINER

DRAPER, DEANN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/001,663

Applicant(s)

PAONESSA, SAVERIO

Examiner

Deanna L. Draper

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 7, 10-12 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Acknowledgements***

The Amendment filed by the Applicant on January 30, 2004 is acknowledged. Claims 26 – 34 have been added.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada (US 4,793,631). Takada discloses an airbag module with a base (see 14 in Fig. 4) and a vehicle support which is a steering wheel (11, 12 in Fig. 3), having a set of at least three unformed locating features (24 in Fig. 3) for guiding an airbag module into a mountable position on the vehicle support, and shaping the set of unformed locating features to a predetermined size (See Col. 3, line 4; 24 is a rivet, and by design, a rivet starts out unformed and the shape is changed once the rivet is used – see also area near 21 in Fig. 4.).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Allard et al. (US 5,239,147). Takada

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discloses the invention as claimed above, however is not used with a floating horn system.

Allard discloses a floating horn system, which may be used in combination with a driver side air bag in order to avoid injury to the driver when the airbag is deployed. Therefore it would have been obvious to modify Takada by including a floating horn system with the driver side air bag in order to avoid injury to the driver when the airbag is deployed, as taught by Allard.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 16 – 34 are allowed.

Claims 3 – 5, 7, 10 – 12, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed January 30, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Takada does not suggest that rivets or bolts are at any point unformed or are later shaped to a predetermined size. However, a rivet, by design, has an unformed end which is later shaped – Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines a rivet as "a headed pin or bolt of metal used for uniting two or more pieces by passing the shank through a hole in each piece and then beating or pressing down the plain end so as to make a second head". The "plain" unformed end is later shaped, thus meeting the limitation of the claims.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deanna L. Draper whose telephone number is 703-306-5939.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul N. Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

dld

~~DEANNA L. DRAPER~~  
PATENT EXAMINER

 5/10/09  
PAUL N. DICKSON  
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